

astonishing in this calm certainty; for our Intelligence people had it straight the enemy was massed in that very sector for a new offensive—had they not but the day before attacked in force the III Corps immediately north of the Somme? In all the history of the West Front nothing so ambitious had been proposed, let alone accomplished. The biggest things in which the Canadian Corps had been engaged were but small affairs beside this; and then there was the memory of other shows that had promised great things but had turned out but half-successes or flat failures, had we but had the courage to admit as much.

But confidence of that kind is infectious. After the talk was over we agreed on our luck in being in for the biggest thing yet.